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**Sent:** Monday, November 07, 2005 10:06 PM  
**To:** MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov  
**Subject:** MLPAComments: CCRSG evaluation process request

Please include, in the CCRSG evaluation process, the MLPA 2001 Revised Draft Concepts (2001 RDCs). The revised draft concepts incorporate a very important effort of F&G staff and public input and serve as a bridge of information to the current endeavor. I would not feel comfortable in proceeding with the MPA network decision-making until I had a more complete understanding of the this 2001 concept.

Thanks Marla Morrissey

**Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Potential Alternatives to Initial Concept for Marine Protected Area (MPA) Networks- South Central Region, February 2003**  
(South Central Region = Pt. Año Nuevo to Pt. Conception)

**MLPA Goals**

The goals for the redesign of California's MPAs are set forth in the MLPA:

- 1) Protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems;
- 2) Help sustain, conserve and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted;
- 3) Improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity;
- 4) Protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value;
- 5) Ensure that California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines;
- 6) Ensure that the State's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.

The goals listed in the MLPA for the redesigned system of MPAs do not include fishery management as a primary goal. However, these MPAs can be a tool used to assist in meeting fishery management needs such as those listed in the Marine Life Management Act, the nearshore fishery management plan and recent squid management recommendations.

A positive contribution of an MPA will be a reduction in the risk of overfishing for those protected species through the potential increase in production of young. MPAs can function as natural hatcheries insuring against recruitment failure although reducing fishable area. Thus, ecosystem protection provided by MPAs is not necessarily a loss to fisheries.

**Objectives of MPAs**

Section 2857 of the MLPA states the following:

(b) The preferred alternative may include MPAs that will achieve either or both of the following objectives:

(1) Protection of habitat by prohibiting potentially damaging fishing practices or other activities that upset the natural ecological functions of the area.

(2) Enhancement of a particular species or group of species, by prohibiting or restricting fishing for that species or group within the MPA boundary.

(c) The preferred siting alternative shall include MPA networks with an improved marine life reserve component, and shall be designed according to each of the following guidelines:

(1) Each MPA shall have identified goals and objectives. Individual MPAs may serve varied primary purposes while collectively achieving the overall goals and guidelines of

this chapter.

(2) Marine life reserves in each bioregion shall encompass a representative variety of marine habitat types and communities, across a range of depths and environmental conditions.

(3) Similar types of marine habitats and communities shall be replicated, to the extent possible, in more than one marine life reserve in each biogeographical region.

(4) Marine life reserves shall be designed, to the extent practicable, to ensure that activities that upset the natural ecological functions of the area are avoided.

(5) The MPA network and individual MPAs shall be of adequate size, number, type of protection, and location to ensure that each MPA meets its objectives and that the network as a whole meets the goals and guidelines of this chapter.

(d) The department and team, in developing the preferred siting alternative, shall take into account the existence and location of commercial kelp beds.

(e) The department and team may provide recommendations for phasing in the new MPAs in the preferred siting alternative.

### **MLPA Designations**

To meet these MLPA goals the Planning Team used three classifications, as specified in the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act, with the following definitions, restrictions, and allowable uses :

(a) A "**state marine reserve**," is a non-terrestrial marine or estuarine area that is designated so the managing agency may achieve one or more of the following:

(1) protect or restore rare, threatened or endangered native plants, animals or habitats in marine areas;

(2) protect or restore outstanding, representative or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats and ecosystems;

(3) protect or restore diverse marine gene pools; or

(4) contribute to the understanding and management of marine resources and ecosystems by providing the opportunity for scientific research in outstanding, representative or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems.

Restrictions: it is unlawful to injure, damage, take or possess any living, geological or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the managing agency for research, restoration or monitoring purposes. While, to the extent feasible, the area shall be open to the public for managed enjoyment and study, the area shall be maintained to the extent practicable in an undisturbed and unpolluted state. Therefore, access and use (such as walking, swimming, boating and diving) may be restricted to protect marine resources.

Allowable uses: research, restoration and monitoring may be permitted by the managing agency. Educational activities and other forms of non-consumptive human use may be permitted by the designating entity or managing agency in a manner consistent with the protection of all marine resources.

(b) A "**state marine park**," is a non-terrestrial marine or estuarine area that is designated so the managing agency may provide opportunities for spiritual, scientific,

educational, and recreational opportunities, as well as one or more of the following:

- (1) protect or restore outstanding, representative or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats and ecosystems;
- (2) contribute to the understanding and management of marine resources and ecosystems by providing the opportunity for scientific research in outstanding, representative or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems;
- (3) preserve cultural objects of historical, archaeological and scientific interest in marine areas; or
- (4) preserve outstanding or unique geological features.

Restrictions: it is unlawful to injure, damage, take or possess any living or nonliving marine resources for commercial exploitation purposes. Any human use that would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community or habitat, or geological, cultural or recreational features, may be restricted by the designating entity or managing agency.

Allowable uses: all other uses are allowed, including scientific collection with a permit, research, monitoring and public recreation (including recreational harvest, unless otherwise restricted). Public use, enjoyment and education are encouraged, in a manner consistent with protecting resource values.

(c) A "**state marine conservation area**," is a non-terrestrial marine or estuarine area that is designated so the managing agency may achieve one or more of the following:

- (1) protect or restore rare, threatened or endangered native plants, animals or habitats in marine areas;
- (2) protect or restore outstanding, representative or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats and ecosystems;
- (3) protect or restore diverse marine gene pools;
- (4) contribute to the understanding and management of marine resources and ecosystems by providing the opportunity for scientific research in outstanding, representative or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems;
- (5) preserve outstanding or unique geological features; or
- (6) provide for sustainable living marine resource harvest.

Restrictions: it is unlawful to injure, damage, take or possess any specified living, geological or cultural marine resources for certain commercial, recreational, or a combination of commercial and recreational purposes. In general, any commercial and/or recreational uses that would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community, habitat or geological features may be restricted by the designating entity or managing agency.

Allowable uses: research, education and recreational activities, and certain commercial and recreational harvest of marine resources may be permitted.

## **Design Criteria**

The procedures used by the Planning Team for developing these draft concepts were designed to meet the requirements of the MLPA and have been applied to each marine region. The use of three levels of protection for MPAs addresses the need to consider socio-economic issues while providing adequate protection for all or some

forms of marine life in certain areas. For example, by using the State Marine Conservation Area designation, additional protection can be provided to residential species associated with the bottom or kelp beds while not impacting fisheries for migratory or mobile pelagic species. The use of the State Marine Park designation is designed to provide recreational opportunities in the ocean, consistent with its terrestrial counterpart.

**No predetermined percentage** of State waters has been designated for any form of protection in any of the regions.

To meet the MLPA goals, the MLPA Planning Team employed the following criteria in developing the initial draft concepts for regional networks of MPAs for California. Design elements included MPA location, shape, size, number, association with existing MPAs and other area-based regulations. The criteria are organized into three categories: 1) habitat; 2) size and spacing; and 3) practicality.

### **Habitat**

1. Include a range of representative habitats, with emphasis on:
  - a. areas where habitat quality does (or potentially can) support diverse and high-density populations.
  - b. benthic habitats and non-pelagic species.
  - c. hard bottom as opposed to soft bottom, because fishing activities within state waters have had the greatest impact on fishes associated with hard bottom, and because soft bottom habitat is interspersed within areas containing rocky habitat.
  - d. habitats associated with those species that are officially designated as overfished (lingcod and many rockfish), those associated with threatened or endangered species (nesting and feeding seabirds, haul-out sites for marine mammals, abalone habitat), and productive habitats such as kelp forests and seagrass beds.
2. Include unique habitats.
3. Include a variety of ocean conditions such as upwelling centers, upwelling shadows, and exposed and semi-protected coastlines

### **Size and spacing**

1. Incorporate or expand upon existing MPAs that are considered to be effective.
2. Include a variety of sizes of MPAs that are dispersed in a network. This would:
  - a. Provide enough space within individual MPAs for the movement of juveniles and adults of many species.
  - b. Achieve beneficial ratios of edge to area.
  - c. Help to include a variety of habitats.
  - d. Facilitate analysis of the effects of different-sized MPAs.
  - e. Provide a network of sources for larval dispersal.
  - f. Enable the use of MPAs as reference sites to evaluate the effects of climate change and other factors on marine ecosystems, without the complicating effects of fishing.
  - g. Minimize the likelihood that catastrophic events will impact all MPAs.

**Practicality**

1. Use simple and easily recognizable boundaries to facilitate identification and enforcement of MPA regulations.
2. To the extent practicable, locate MPAs in areas where there is onsite presence to facilitate enforcement.
3. Consider non-extractive uses, cultural resources, and existing fisheries and fishing regulations.
4. Consider proximity to ports, safe anchorage sites, and points of access, to minimize negative impacts on people and increase benefits.
5. Facilitate monitoring of MPA effectiveness by including well-studied sites, both in MPAs and unprotected areas.
6. Consider positive and negative socioeconomic consequences.

**Development of Potential Alternatives to Initial Draft Concept**

Since late June 2001, when the Initial Draft Concept for the South Central Region became available to the public, the Department received comments in the following ways: 1) public workshops held in July 2001 in Seaside and Morro Bay in which comments were obtained from small group discussions, individuals addressing the entire audience, and written comments submitted at the workshop; 2) letters, faxes, and emails received from July through December 2001; and 3) thirty-one small group discussions with representatives of constituents groups conducted from August through December 2001. A complete list of those discussion groups is provided on page 9.

The Planning Team attempted to consider all of these comments and develop potential alternatives to the Initial Draft Concept which reflected public input and met the stated goals of the MLPA. The following alternative concept is not a preferred alternative but is offered as a starting point for facilitated group discussions in a process that ultimately will result in the development of a preferred alternative, among a series of alternatives, which would comprise a proposed MPA network component.

A summary of a Potential Alternative Concept for the South Central Region is presented, followed by detailed descriptions of proposed sites, including some options.

**Brief summary of Initial Draft Concept and Potential Alternative for South Central Region February 2003****Initial Draft Concept:**

8 State Marine Reserves (SMR), including one shared with North Central Region, total 39 square nautical miles in SC Region

1 State Marine Park (SMP), shared with South Region, 55 square miles in SC Region

13 State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA), total 95 square miles

Total of 22 Marine Protected Areas, 189 square miles, equivalent to 22 percent of all state waters within South Central Region.

**SMRs:**

Año Nuevo, Natural Bridges, Hopkins (includes Ed Ricketts), Point Lobos, Julia Pfeiffer Burns, Big Creek, Salmon Creek, Cambria

**SMPs**

Conception

**SMCAs**

Año Nuevo, Natural Bridges, Soquel Canyon, Portuguese Ledge, Pacific Grove, Carmel Bay, Point Lobos, Point Sur, Big Creek, Piedras Blancas, Cambria, Point Buchon, Purisima

**Revised Draft Concept:**

11 State Marine Reserves, total 26.9 square miles in South Central Region (one site shared with South Region)

0 State Marine Parks

10 State Marine Conservation Areas, total 48.7 square miles

Total of 21 Marine Protected Areas, 75.6 square miles. Total area excluding Elkhorn Slough is 73.9 square miles, equivalent to 8.6% of all South Central Region state ocean waters.

**SMRs:**

Sand Hill Bluff, Elkhorn Slough, Hopkins (excludes Ed Ricketts), Asilomar, Point Lobos, Big Creek, Salmon Cone, Piedras Blancas Intertidal, Cambria, Diablo Canyon, Conception

**SMCAs**

Soquel Canyon, Portuguese Ledge, Ed Ricketts, Pacific Grove, Carmel Bay, Garrapata, Big Sur, Partington Canyon, Julia Pfeiffer Burns, Vandenberg

This reduces the total area within MPAs by 60% compared with the Initial Draft Concept, but still contains a wide variety of habitat, including replicates for submarine canyons, and retains a network component design, with spacing between centers of MPAs ranging from 5 to 25 miles within the region, with the exception of the primarily soft bottom habitat area from Avila Beach to Vandenberg.

Among the 21 proposed MPAs, most include hard and soft bottom habitat within the intertidal and 0-30 m depth ranges. Fifteen of these contain hard and soft bottom habitat within the 30-100 m depth range, six of these contain hard and soft bottom habitat within the 100-200 m depth range, and four (Soquel, Carmel Bay, Big Creek, and Partington Canyon) contain hard and soft bottom habitat greater than 200 m. All but four (Soquel, Elkhorn Slough, Portuguese Ledge, and Piedras Blancas Intertidal) contain some kelp habitat, at least three (Pt. Lobos, Garrapata, and Big Creek) contain pinnacle habitat, and three (Soquel, Carmel Bay, and Partington Canyon) contain submarine canyon habitat).

This represents more than a 10-fold increase in the total area within MPAs for the region compared with existing MPAs (the latter encompass approximately 6.8 square miles).

**Summary of Changes from Initial Draft Concept (MPAs proposed in the Potential Alternative Concept are numbered consecutively):**

**Año Nuevo SMR and SMCA:** Delete those portions in the South Central Region.

Recommend retaining portions in the North Central Region and upgrade SMCA to SMR

**Natural Bridges SMR and SMCA:** Delete proposed SMCA. Relocate proposed SMR north to region from Table Rock to the north three miles. Rename as:

**1. Sand Hill Bluff SMR.** Retain offshore boundary as 1 mile.

**2. Soquel Canyon SMCA:** Reduce proposed boundaries both north-south and east-west to an area approximately 5.0 square miles, retaining portion of canyon with rock outcrops in which baseline studies have been conducted. Alternative to proposed regulations: allow spot prawn harvest by trap.

**3. Elkhorn Slough SMR:** This is an existing estuarine ecological reserve which affords full protection to marine life. It was erroneously omitted from the Initial Draft Concept. No changes are proposed for boundaries or regulations.

**4. Portuguese Ledge SMCA:** Delete western half, retain eastern half

**5. Ed Ricketts SMCA:** proposed boundaries from base of breakwater to Hopkins SMR and out to 60 feet. Allow commercial hand-harvest of kelp in designated area. No other commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**6. Hopkins SMR:** no changes in existing regulations or boundaries.

**7. Pacific Grove SMCA:** Proposed boundaries from Hopkins SMR to Asilomar SMR and out to 60 feet. Recreational finfish fishing permitted. Commercial harvest for kelp, squid, and pelagic finfish species only. Western boundary is line extending offshore from Point Pinos to Point Pinos Buoy to a depth of 60 feet.

**8. Asilomar SMR:** Proposed boundaries from Pacific Grove SMCA to Moss Beach and out to 60 feet.

**9. Carmel Bay SMCA:** no change in existing boundaries or regulations.

Alternative: Reduce southern boundary to Mono Lobo, in conjunction with expansion of northern boundary of Point Lobos SMR.

**10. Point Lobos SMR:** no change in existing boundaries or regulations.

Alternative: Expand northern boundary to Mono Lobo, in conjunction with reduction of southern boundary of Carmel Bay SMCA.

**Point Lobos SMCA:** reduce in size, relocate to area from CDFG Granite Canyon tin shack to Kasler Point and 1 mile offshore, rename as:

**11. Garrapata SMCA,** allow only recreational and commercial harvest of salmon and pelagic species, and commercial kelp harvesting.

**Point Sur SMCA:** reduce in size, relocate to area from un-named point just south of mouth of Big Sur River to Cooper Point and to 3 miles offshore, rename as:

**12. Big Sur SMCA,** allow only recreational and commercial harvest of salmon and pelagic species, and commercial kelp harvesting.

**Julia Pfeiffer Burns SMR:** reduce to existing area of state park with specific regulations (within 1000 feet of shore) and rename and reclassify as:

**13. Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Marine Conservation Area,** but also establish a new MPA from an un-named point just north of the head of Partington Canyon to Partington Point, with west and south boundaries forming a triangle and including much of



Partington Canyon. This would be called:

**14. Partington Canyon SMCA**, and would allow only recreational and commercial harvest of salmon and pelagic species, and spot prawn harvest by trap.

**15. Big Creek SMR and Big Creek SMCA**: Combine into a single SMR.

**Salmon Creek SMR**: Reduce area by deleting southern 1/3, rename as:

**16. Salmon Cone SMR.**

**Piedras Blancas SMCA**: Reduce area to intertidal only, reclassify as SMR, rename as:

**17. Piedras Blancas Intertidal SMR.**, change Proposed shore boundaries to: Point Piedras Blancas to an un-named point due east of "rky 2" on nautical chart.

**Cambria SMCA**: delete

**18. Cambria SMR**: retain as originally proposed, except for slight alteration of northern boundary to coincide with terrestrial reserve.

**Point Buchon SMCA**: relocate to area of 1 mile radius from Diablo Canyon Power plant, reclassify and rename as:

**19. Diablo Canyon SMR.**

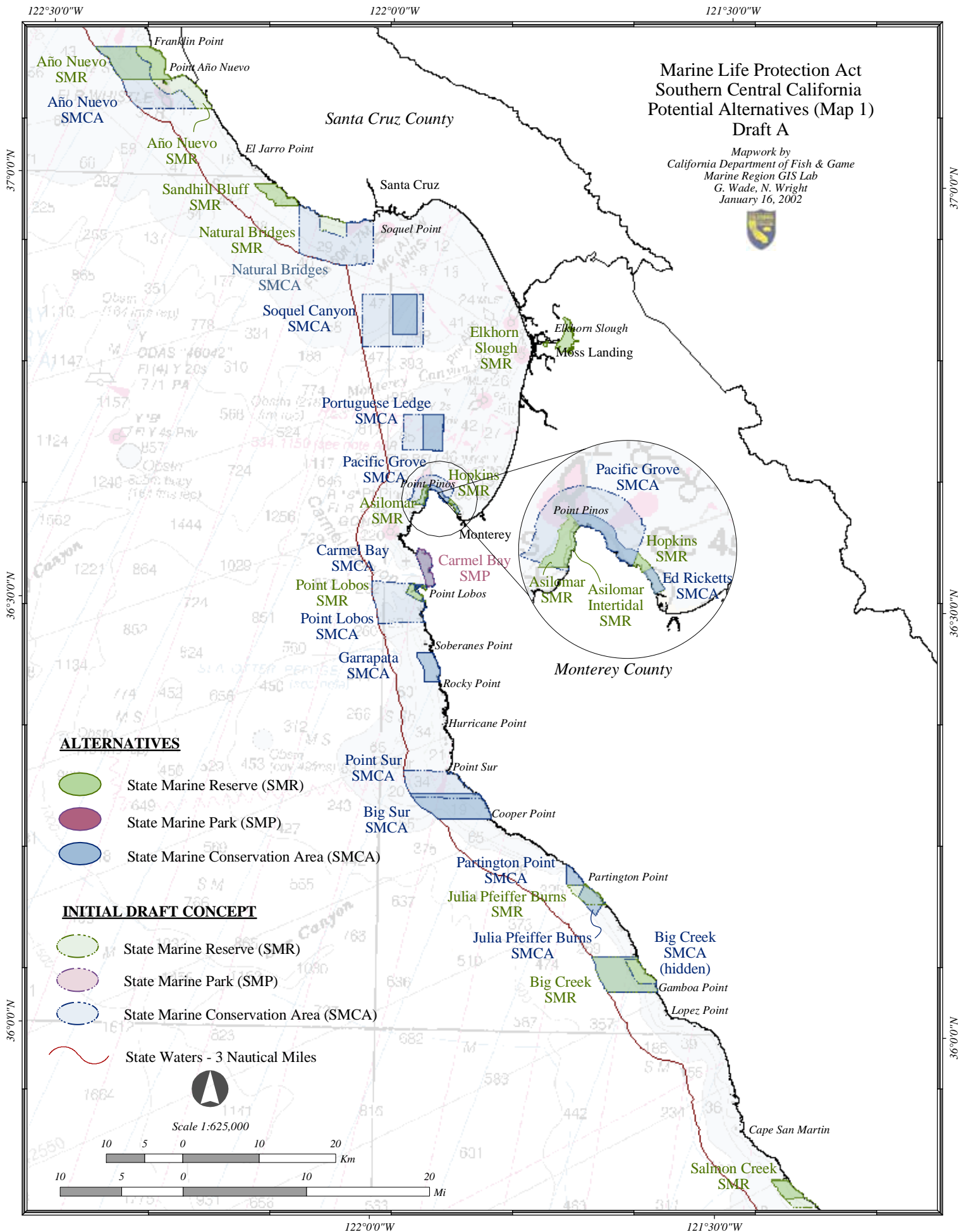
**Conception SMP**: reduce in size and partition into two separate a SMCA and an SMR:

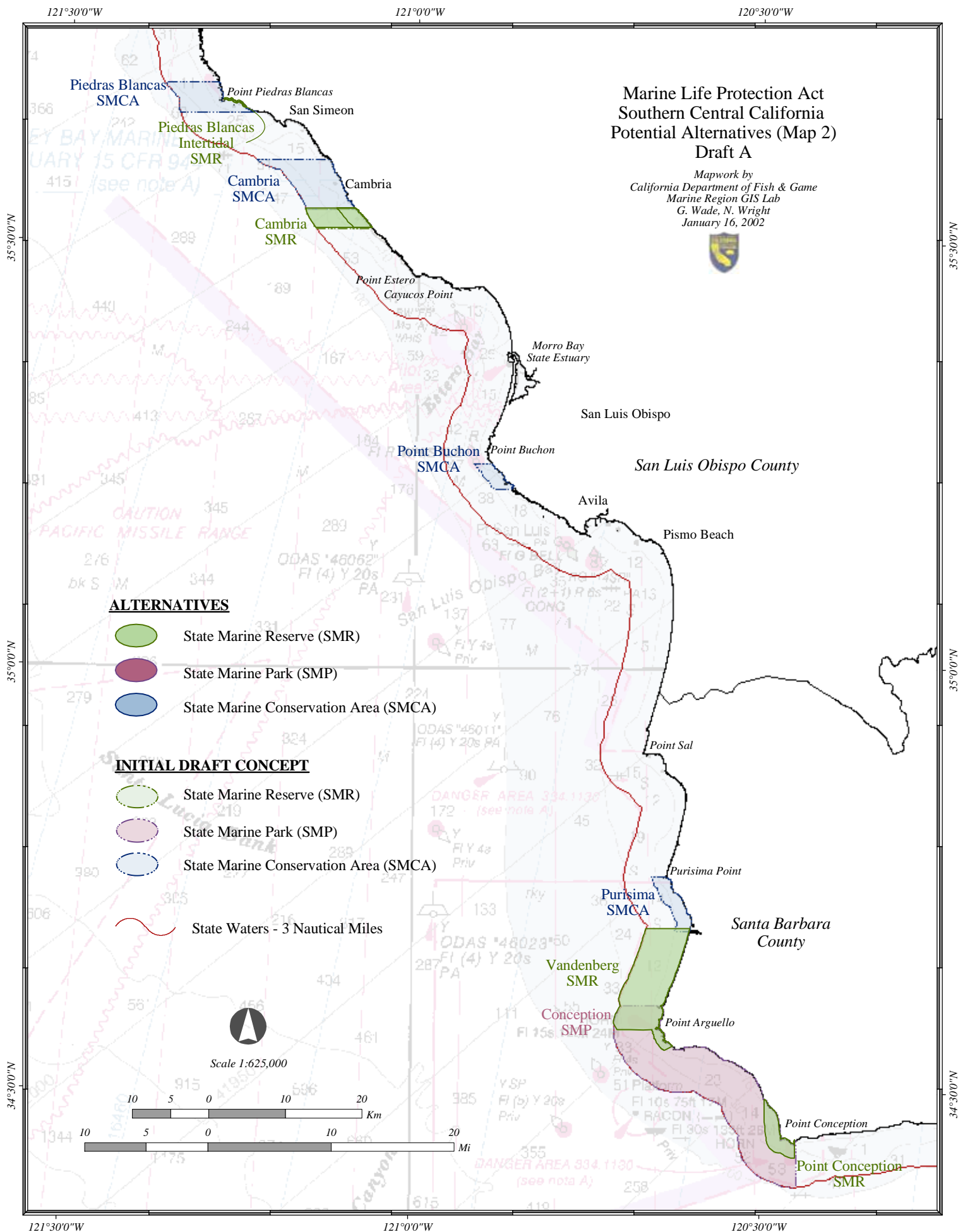
**20. Vandenberg SMCA** - That Military Zone 4 south of a line due west of the city of Surf, plus the existing Vandenberg Ecological Reserve, and that portion of Military Zone 5 north of a line due west of the southern boundary of the existing Vandenberg MRPA Ecological Reserve. Only salmon trolling permitted.

**21. Conception SMR**, from 3 miles north of Pt. Conception to Government Point and out to 1 nautical mile.

Summary of Small Group Meetings South Central Region  
(area discussed in parentheses)

1. Aug 21, ISP Alginates Inc. (kelp harvester), (entire region)
2. Aug 28, Aquarius Dive Shop, (Monterey area)
3. Aug 28, Sea Life Supply Co., (Monterey area)
4. Aug 29, Bamboo Reef Dive Shop, (Monterey area)
5. Aug 29, Monterey Bay Dive Center, (Monterey area)
6. Sep 4, Monterey Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel industry (recreational anglers), (Santa Cruz to Point Sur)
7. Sep 5, Friends of Ed Ricketts, (Monterey area)
8. Sep 6, squid fishery, (entire region)
9. Sep 9, Cen Cal Divers, United Anglers, (Año Nuevo to Cape San Martin)
10. Sep 10, Tidepool Coalition, (Pacific Grove area)
11. Sep 13, Monterey Harbormaster Office, (Monterey area)
12. Sep 13, Monterey Abalone Company, (Monterey area)
13. Sep 18, Elkhorn Slough reserve Advisory Committee, (Elkhorn Slough)
14. Sep 25, Morro Bay/Port San Luis Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel industry (recreational anglers), (Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception)
15. Sep 25, Hopkins Marine Station, (Monterey area)
16. Sep 25, Monterey Bay Aquarium, (Monterey area)
17. Sep 27, Environmental Groups, (entire region)
18. Sep 28, recreational skiff anglers, commercial spot prawn fisherman, (Año Nuevo to Soquel)
19. Oct 1, recreational divers, (Piedras Blancas to Pt. Conception)
20. Oct 2, Santa Cruz Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel industry (recreational anglers), (Año Nuevo to Monterey)
21. Oct 23, Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (primarily commercial fishermen and harbor district), (Año Nuevo to Monterey)
22. Oct 26, Mayor Rodger Anderson, Morro Bay (general discussion)
23. Oct 26, Kelp harvesters (joint meeting with South Region) (entire state)
24. Oct 29, commercial small skiff fishermen, (Pt. Sur to Pt. Buchon)
25. Oct 30, Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (primarily commercial fishermen and harbor district), (Monterey area)
26. Nov 1, Monterey County Fish and Game Commission (general discussion)
27. Nov 13, Morro Bay- Port San Luis area Nearshore Fishery fishermen (Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception)
28. Nov 13, Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (primarily commercial fishermen and harbor district), (Morro Bay to Pt. Conception)
29. Nov 16, Pacific Abalone, (Monterey area)
30. Nov 27, Coalition of Organizations for Ocean Life (environmental) (general discussion)
31. Dec 3, Friends of Ed Ricketts (Monterey area)





## Potential Alternative Concept for South Central Region January 2002

### Definition:

Pelagic Finfish. Pelagic finfish, for the purpose of this section, are defined as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), barracudas (*Sphyraena* sp.), billfishes\* (family *Istiophoridae*), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*), shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), thresher shark (*Alopias vulpinus*), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), tunas (family *Scombridae*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). \*Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

### General statement regarding access:

It is not the intention within any proposed MPA to restrict access and activities of a non-extractive nature, including walking, wading, swimming, diving, and boating, unless specified for a particular proposed site with rationale stated.

(The revised proposed sites are renumbered in bold.)

### Deleted:

part of Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve

part of Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area

Those portions of these proposed sites within the South Central Region were deleted due to concerns of socioeconomic impacts on traditional users and the historical importance of the area as an anchorage site. Those portions of the original proposed sites from Año Nuevo to the north were still being considered and were within the previously defined North Central Region (Pt. Año Nuevo to Pt. Arena).

### 1. Marine Region: South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve

**Revised Proposed MPA:** Sand Hill Bluff State Marine Reserve

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is 37° 59.5' N. Southern boundary is 36° 58.1' N, intersecting Table Rock onshore. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

**Total Area:** 2.41 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 3.49 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** mixture of low relief shale reef and sand, with kelp beds. Depth range 0-20 fathoms, or 0-37 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This area is representative of the shale reefs and kelp forests found along the coast between Santa Cruz and Davenport. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in this area and would enhance economically important species, including lingcod and blue, black, gopher, brown, China, vermilion, and copper rockfishes. There is a permanent monitoring site here established by PISCO with nearshore baseline data. Historically the area contained large red abalone. This alternative to the proposed Natural Bridges SMR was supported by Cen Cal Divers and would be less of an impact to the squid and kelp fisheries than the original proposal. This would impact skiff anglers from Santa Cruz harbor less since it is farther from the harbor than the initially proposed site. Environmental groups also suggested relocating the proposed Natural Bridge SMR to the north, although they believed it should be expanded.

**Deleted:**

Natural Bridges State Marine Conservation Area

This site was deleted due to concerns of socioeconomic impacts on traditional users.

**2. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Soquel Canyon State Marine Conservation Area

**Revised Proposed MPA:** **Soquel Canyon State Marine Conservation Area**

**Proposed boundaries:** A square delimited by a northern boundary latitude line of 36° 52.0' N, eastern boundary longitude line of 121° 57.5' W, southern boundary latitude line of 36° 49.1' N, and western boundary of longitude line 121° 59.6' W.

**Total Area:** 4.83 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** not applicable for any option

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No.

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Submarine canyon with varied habitat, including vertical rock walls, rock outcrops, and soft sediment. Depth range: 37-284 fathoms, or 68-520 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, squid, and pelagic finfish.

Option 1: include spot prawn trap fishing in the list of allowed fishing activities.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:** This revised proposal reduces the size of

the originally proposed SMCA by shrinking the north, south, and west boundaries. This area would include a significant portion of one branch of the Monterey Submarine Canyon, and includes a variety of deep-water habitats. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in the benthic portion of the area and would enhance economically important species, including spot prawns, lingcod, sablefish, chilipepper, bocaccio, cowcod, and widow, canary, vermilion, greenspotted, greenstriped, yellowtail, and yelloweye rockfishes. A natural refugium from fishing has been documented in this area, but it has otherwise been subject to fishing and shows signs of depletion. It is located within the Monterey Bay oceanographic system. The habitat has been mapped geologically in the early 1990s, and the fishes have been surveyed by submersible in 1992 and 1993. The results of the latter studies by Yoklavich et al. were published in Fishery Bulletin Volume 98, in 1999.

### **3. Marine Region: South Central**

**Initial Proposed MPA:** (this existing site was omitted from initial draft)

**Revised Proposed MPA: Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve**

**Proposed boundaries:** Existing boundaries.

**Total Area:** 1.71 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 2.73 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** No

**Habitats:** Estuary with soft bottom.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted. However, existing regulations state "fishing shall be conducted from only those specific areas of the reserve designated by the department." At present there are no such areas

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** No.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:** This small reserve has been in existence for many decades and would add an estuarine component to the proposed MPA network for this region. The Reserve Advisory Committee discussed the possibility of including other portions of the slough within an MPA, but based primarily on the limited existing consumptive uses in the area, a decision was made not to pursue this.

### **4. Marine Region: South Central**

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area

**Revised Proposed MPA: Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area**

**Proposed boundaries:** A square delimited by a northern boundary latitude line of 36° 43.5' N, eastern boundary longitude line of 121° 55' W, southern boundary latitude line of 36° 41' N, and western boundary longitude line of 121° 56.8' W?

**Total Area:** 3.51 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** not applicable.

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No**  
**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rock reef and interspersed soft bottom. Depth range: 48-56 fathoms, or 87-103 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, squid, and pelagic finfish.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This revised proposal represents a reduction in area on the western side due to concerns expressed by the CPFV fishery over potential negative socioeconomic impacts. The area includes deep-water reef habitat that has been fished for decades. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in the benthic portion of the area and would enhance economically important species, including lingcod, bocaccio, and yellowtail, widow, starry, canary, greenspotted, copper, speckled, vermillion, blue, greenstriped, bank, flag, and yelloweye rockfishes. Surveys of this area by submersible in the mid 1990s showed that few large fish remain in the area. However, the previous fishery in the area and the surveys by submersible show that the habitat will support populations of deepwater rockfish and other species, so it is a good site for recovery of these species. It is within the Monterey Bay oceanographic system. Geophysical surveys have been conducted here, and the Department has an 11-year data base of CPFV on board observations from fishing locations within this proposed site.

**5. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Hopkins State Marine Reserve

**Revised Proposed MPA:** Ed Ricketts SMCA.

**Proposed boundaries:** The proposed Ed Ricketts SMCA would extend east from the base of Monterey Breakwater (36° 36.6' N, 121° 53.7' W), out to the eastern offshore corner (36° 36.7' N, 121° 53.4' W), then along a depth of 60 feet to the existing eastern boundary of the Hopkins State Marine Reserve.

**Total Area:** 0.15 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 0.95 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No.**  
**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rock reef and interspersed soft bottom; kelp forests; rocky intertidal zone. Depth range 0-10 fathoms, or 0-18 meters.



**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for the hand harvesting of kelp in designated areas.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed MPA.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

Long-term monitoring sites have been established in this area off Cannery Row. Baseline data include Department scuba surveys and reports from Cen Cal spearfishing meets in the 1960s. The area is popular for observation of marine life by kayakers and SCUBA divers. Department studies have documented a scarcity of local populations of adult resident bottom fishes, primarily nearshore rockfishes, surfperches, cabezon, greenling, and lingcod, which should recover under full protection. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in this area and would enhance economically important species, primarily for the above species. The few local kelp harvesters who use the area to supply their abalone aquaculture businesses have a history of sustainable and responsible use of this resource. Significant time was spent in previous discussions and meetings, including with the Fish and Game Commission, to develop specific areas within the proposed site in which kelp may and may not be harvested. The location of this proposed site near Hopkins Marine Station, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and other public facilities will facilitate enforcement. The Monterey Coast Guard Breakwater is a designated public fishing pier with access for disabled persons. Primarily for this reason, the recommendation is to not include this within the proposed SMCA.

**6. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Hopkins State Marine Reserve, including “Ed Ricketts” area

**Revised Proposed MPA:** Hopkins State Marine Reserve

**Proposed boundaries:** Existing Hopkins State Marine Reserve

**Total Area:** 0.10 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 0.64 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Hopkins State Marine Reserve)

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** No.

**Habitats:** Rock reef and interspersed soft bottom; kelp forests; rocky intertidal zone. Depth range 0-11 fathoms, or 0-20 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** No.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

Hopkins State Marine Reserve has been under some degree of protection since 1931,

and has been totally protected since 1984. Extensive scientific studies have been carried out within the refuge, and long-term monitoring sites have been established. The Monterey Peninsula is a northerly outpost for some southern California fishes. Its location off Hopkins Marine Station will facilitate enforcement.

**7. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Pacific Grove State Marine Conservation Area (eastern portion)

**Revised Proposed MPA:** **Pacific Grove State Marine Conservation Area**

**Proposed boundaries:** Eastern boundary is the existing boundary between the Pacific Grove Marine State Marine Conservation Area and Hopkins State Marine Reserve.

Western boundary is a line extending from Pt. Pinos seaward to Pt. Pinos buoy to the 60 foot depth contour, which would be the eastern boundary of the proposed Asilomar State Marine Reserve (see below). The offshore boundary is 60 feet.

**Total Area:** 0.58 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 2.51 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Pacific Grove State Marine Conservation Area).

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** No

**Habitats:** Extensive rock reef and interspersed soft bottom; kelp forests; extensive rocky intertidal zone. Depth range 0-10 fathoms, or 0-18 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** Recreational fishing is permitted for finfish. Commercial fishing for sardines, mackerel, anchovies, squid, and herring by ring net, lampara net, or bait net is allowed. Commercial kelp harvesting is allowed. All other forms of marine life are protected from harvest.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** Yes, existing regulations prohibited the recreational take of mollusks and crustaceans, but allowed the take of other invertebrates.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:** This proposal represents a reduction in offshore area due to socioeconomic concerns, but an increase in the degree of protection for invertebrates. This has been an MPA since 1984 and serves as a buffer zone for the proposed Hopkins State Marine Reserve. It is a popular area for the observation of marine life, and the site of many scientific studies. The proposed regulations would enhance the protection of invertebrates, particularly in the intertidal area, while still allowing scientific collecting. The Monterey Peninsula is a northerly outpost for some southern California fishes and provides a degree of protection to extensive deeper reefs, as well as the extensive shallow reefs and kelp forests. The Department has a long term data base of relative abundance of economically important nearshore fishes in the area, from scuba surveys and monitoring studies of recreational fisheries.

**8. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Pacific Grove State Marine Conservation Area (western portion)

**Revised Proposed MPA:** Asilomar State Marine Reserve

Option 1. Create **Asilomar Intertidal SMR** and **Asilomar SMCA**, with latter having regulations similar to the proposed Pacific Grove SMCA.

**Proposed boundaries:** Eastern boundary is the proposed western boundary of Pacific Grove SMCA. Southern boundary is the same as the existing boundary for the existing Pacific Grove State Marine Conservation Area. Offshore boundary is 60 feet depth.

**Total Area:** 0.60 square nautical miles

Option 1: 0.13 square nautical miles for SMR, 0.47 square nautical miles for SMCA

**Total Shoreline length:** 1.48 nautical miles

Option 1: 1.48 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Pacific Grove State Marine Conservation Area).

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** No.

**Habitats:** Extensive rock reef and interspersed soft bottom; kelp forests; extensive rocky intertidal zone. Depth range 0-10 fathoms, or 0-18 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing. **No scientific collecting in intertidal area.**

Option 1. In Asilomar SMCA, recreational fishing is permitted for finfish. Commercial fishing for sardines, mackerel, anchovies, squid, and herring by ring net, lampara net, or bait net is allowed. Commercial kelp harvesting is allowed. All other forms of marine life are protected from harvest.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** Yes. Existing regulations allow the recreational harvest of finfish and invertebrates other than mollusks and crustaceans, Existing regulations allow the commercial harvest of sardines, mackerel, anchovies, squid, and herring by ring net, lampara net, or bait net.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This proposal represents a reduction in offshore area due to socioeconomic concerns. However, it increases the degree of protection within 60-foot depth compared with the previous proposal. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in this area and would enhance economically important species, primarily nearshore rockfishes, lingcod, cabezon, greenlings, and surfperches. This has been an MPA since 1984. It is a popular area for the observation of marine life, and the site of many scientific studies. The Monterey Peninsula is a northerly outpost for some southern California fishes. This area provides protection to extensive shallow reefs and kelp forests. There has been substantial efforts by local community members to provide full protection to the sensitive intertidal areas. Several years ago the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Hopkins Marine Station voluntarily agreed to discontinue scientific

collecting in this area.

**9. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area

**Revised Proposed MPA:** Leave as is, no changes, except for possible boundary adjustment.

Note: In the Initial Draft Concept this was erroneously proposed as a State Marine Park with no change in existing regulations. However, commercial kelp harvesting is allowed within the existing Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area. Thus, if no changes are made to existing regulations, the area would by definition maintain its existing classification.

**Proposed boundaries:** Same as existing boundaries and initial draft proposal boundaries. Western boundary begins at Pescadero Point (36° 33.654' N, 121° 57.12' W) and continues in a straight line to Granite Point (36° 31.41' N, 121° 56.1' W) at compass bearing roughly southeast. All other boundaries of this reserve are the coastline.

Option 1: Southern boundary would be shortened to exclude the area called Mono Lobo, which would be added to the proposed Point Lobos State Marine Reserve (see number 9).

**Total Area:** 1.87 square nautical miles

Option 1: 1.85 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 5.79 nautical miles

Option 1: 5.49 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area)

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** No (The alternative would be a slight reduction).

**Habitats:** Rock reef and interspersed soft bottom; kelp forests; submarine canyon. Depth range 0-77 fathoms, or 0-141 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial fishing permitted except for kelp harvesting. Recreational fishing allowed for all finfish species.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** No

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This area has been an MPA since 1976, and current levels of protection are proposed to remain the same. This area covers a wide range of habitats, including rock reefs, sand bottom, and the head of the Carmel submarine canyon. It is a popular area for the observation of marine life, and the site of long-term monitoring sites and many scientific studies. The canyon head serves as a reserve for spot prawns, a species harvested commercially. The Monterey Peninsula is a northerly outpost for some southern

California fishes, and Carmel Bay is oceanographically complex due to its proximity to both Monterey Bay and the Pt. Sur upwelling center. The Department has baseline data on relative fish abundances from research cruises and scuba surveys since the 1970s. Observations have also been made here using research submersibles in the mid 1990s.

**10. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Point Lobos State Marine Reserve

**Revised Proposed MPA:** Leave as is, no changes, except for possible boundary adjustment.

**Proposed boundaries:** of Point Lobos State Marine Reserve. Northeastern onshore boundary (36° 31.4' N, 121° 56.2' W) out to northeastern offshore boundary (36° 31.5' N, 121° 56.2' N). Northern boundary at a latitude line 36° 31.5' N to a western offshore boundary (36° 31.5' N, 121° 57.5' W). Southwest onshore boundary (36° 30.3' N, 121° 56.3' W) to a Southwest offshore boundary (36° 30.9' N, 121° 57.9' W).

Option 1: Northern boundary would be expanded to include the area called Mono Lobo.

**Total Area:** 0.83 square nautical miles

Option 1: 0.84 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 6.71 nautical miles

Option 1: 7.38 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Point Lobos State Marine Reserve)

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** No (The alternative would be a slight expansion).

**Habitats:** Extensive rock reef deep and shallow off Pt. Lobos and Yankee Point; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom; submarine canyon heads. Depth range 0-32 fathoms, or 0-59 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** No.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The Point Lobos State Marine Reserve has been in existence since 1974, and is a popular area for observation of marine life. It is adjacent to a state terrestrial reserve, so entry is monitored closely. Observations have been made here using research submersibles in the mid 1990s. The Department has baseline data on fish abundance from research cruises since the late 1970s and from scuba surveys in the 1990s. The area has been mapped using sidescan sonar. The Pt. Lobos State Marine Reserve contains extensive reef and kelp-forest habitat, seabird roosts, and pinniped haul-outs. This area is representative of the nearshore habitats found between Pt. Lobos and Pt. Sur. It is near a persistent upwelling plume off Pt. Sur.

**11. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area

**Revised Proposed MPA:** Garrapata State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary latitude of 36° 26.7'N (south of Soberanes Point at the Granite Canyon tin shack). Southern boundary is at Kasler Point at latitude of 36° 24.7'N. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

**Total Area:** 2.26 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 3.96 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Depth range 0-40 fathoms, or 0-74 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing except for salmon, squid, kelp, and pelagic finfish.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This area is representative of the habitats found between Pt. Lobos and Pt. Sur. It is near a persistent upwelling plume off Pt. Sur. It is proposed as an alternative to the initially proposed Point Lobos SMCA. This proposed MPA constitutes a relocation to the south and a reduction in total area in response to socioeconomic concerns from users. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in the benthic portion of this area and would enhance economically important species, primarily blue, olive, gopher, copper and vermilion rockfishes, lingcod, cabezon, greenlings, and surfperches. This alternative has some support from the CPFV industry and recreational divers. Enforcement would be facilitated due to the presence of the CDFG Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Laboratory. The Department has baseline data on fish abundance for this site from research cruises since the late 1970s, and from scuba surveys in 1981.

**12. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area

**Revised Proposed MPA:** Big Sur State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is a latitude line 36° 16.8' N from an unnamed point just south of the mouth of the Big Sur River. Southern boundary is a latitude line 36° 15.0' N from Cooper Point. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

**Total Area:** 8.27 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 2.69 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Extensive rock reef deep and shallow; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 0-104 fathoms, or 0-191 meters

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing except for salmon, squid, kelp, and pelagic finfish.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The area off Point Sur contains a persistent upwelling plume, where larvae of fish and invertebrates may be transported to other areas. This area contains extensive reefs, in both deep and shallow water. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in the benthic portion of this area and would enhance economically important species, primarily blue olive, gopher, and copper rockfishes, lingcod, cabezon, greenlings, and surfperches. This site and nearby areas of similar habitat are exploited by commercial and recreational fisheries. It is adjacent to Andrew Molera State Park, and near a long-term monitoring site. Observations have been made here using research submersibles in the mid 1990s. The Department has baseline data on fish abundance from research cruises since the late 1970s and from scuba surveys in the 1990s. The area has been mapped using sidescan sonar. This site was suggested as an alternative to the originally proposed Point Sur site in order to reduce socioeconomic impacts but still retain a portion of critical reef habitat in an MPA network. It constitutes a relocation to the south and is a reduction in area compared with the initial proposal.

**13. Marine Region: South Central**

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Marine Reserve

**Revised Proposed MPA: Partington Canyon State Marine Conservation Area**  
(first of two parts of revised proposal from initially proposed site)

**Proposed boundaries:** Western boundary is a longitude line 121° 43.5' N from an unnamed point on shore, at latitude 36° 11.9' N, to the intersection with latitude line 36° 10.4' N. Southern boundary is a latitude line 36° 10.4' N from its intersection with longitude line 121° 43.5' N to Partington Point.

**Total Area:** 1.17 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 2.36 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rocky intertidal; rock reefs and interspersed sand in shallow water; submarine canyon heads, kelp forests. Depth range 0-149 fathoms, or 0-272 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing except for salmon, squid, kelp, pelagic finfish, and spot prawns (using traps).

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:** This area was suggested as an alternative to the originally proposed expansion of the existing site off Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park in order to address socioeconomic concerns of the nearshore livefish fishermen, but also to include a replicate submarine canyon habitat in the proposed MPA network. The Department has some baseline data on fish abundance from research cruises in 1982 and 1998. Recent surveys using a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) were completed by MBARI and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in the benthic portion of this area and would enhance economically important species, primarily bocaccio, yellowtail, cowcod, yelloweye, starry, copper, and canary rockfishes, lingcod, cabezon, and greenlings. Rockfishes are the primary target for protection.

**14. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Marine Reserve

**Revised Proposed MPA:** **Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Marine Conservation Area**

(second of two parts of revised proposal from initially proposed site)

**Proposed boundaries:** Existing boundaries Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park.

**Total Area:** 2.06 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 3.97 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** No

**Habitats:** Rocky intertidal; rock reefs and interspersed sand in shallow water; submarine canyon heads, kelp forests. Depth range 0-118 fathoms, or 0-215 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** Recreational and commercial fishing for finfish and kelp permitted. Recreational and commercial fishing for certain invertebrates prohibited to 1000 feet offshore, even though the designated underwater park boundary extends to 6000 feet offshore. These are the existing regulations.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** No

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:** This existing area was suggested, along with the previous proposed site, as an alternative to the originally proposed expansion of the existing site off Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, in order to address socioeconomic concerns of the nearshore live fish fishermen, but also to include a replicate submarine canyon habitat in the proposed MPA network. The proposed regulations would continue to afford protection to many invertebrate species. The Department of Parks and



Recreation has a long-term data base here, including information on habitat, fishes, invertebrates, and algae.

**15. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Big Creek State Marine Reserve and Big Creek State Marine Conservation Area

**Revised Proposed MPA: Big Creek State Marine Reserve** (combination of above two areas)

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is from Rat Creek ( $36^{\circ} 5.5' \text{ N}$ ,  $121^{\circ} 37.1' \text{ W}$ ) at latitude line  $36^{\circ} 5.5' \text{ N}$  to 3 nautical miles offshore. Southern boundary is from Gamboa Point ( $36^{\circ} 3.0' \text{ N}$ ,  $121^{\circ} 35.4' \text{ W}$ ) at latitude line  $36^{\circ} 3.0' \text{ N}$  to 3 nautical miles offshore. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles.

**Total Area:** 8.86 square nautical miles.

**Total Shoreline length:** 3.75 nautical miles.

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Big Creek State Marine Reserve)

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** Yes, it is expanded to the north, south, and offshore.

**Habitats:** Extensive rock reef deep and shallow; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom; submarine canyon heads. Depth range 0-399 fathoms, or 0-729 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** That portion of the proposed site outside of the existing Big Creek State Marine Reserve would be a new marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The proposed State Marine Reserve extends the north and south boundaries of the existing Big Creek State Marine Reserve to more easily-recognized points, and extends protection of benthic species to deeper water. The Big Creek State Marine Reserve has existed since 1994, and is the site of monitoring studies in both deep and shallow water. The Department has baseline information on fish abundance from periodic research cruises since 1978 and scuba surveys since 1982. Intensive scuba surveys documenting relative abundance of economically important nearshore fishes and habitat type were conducted from 1994 to 1998. Submersible surveys in deeper water occurred in the mid 1990s. The area has been mapped using sidescan sonar. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in this area and would enhance economically important species, including lingcod and rockfishes, including bocaccio, yelloweye, canary, vermilion, yellowtail, blue, olive, gopher, kelp, China, and black. This MPA is south of the Pt. Sur upwelling plume, and just north of a small upwelling plume at Lopez point. A large and diverse intertidal system occurs at Gamboa Point. While this proposal would prohibit fishing for salmon and pelagic species out to three miles, the total impact on these fisheries from this revised proposed

network is minimal, as this is only one of two proposed State Marine Reserves in the Pt. Sur to Pt. Arguello region which restricts these types of fishing in an area where they are presently allowed. This proposal address concerns from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and environmental groups that we do not have an adequate number of sites proposed as SMRs that extend out to 3 miles and thus afford complete ecosystem protection. This MPA leaves Lopez Point and other reef areas near the coastal access at Mill Creek open for fishing.

**16. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Salmon Creek State Marine Reserve

**Revised Proposed MPA:** **Salmon Cone State Marine Reserve.**

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is a latitude line of 35° 49.9' N from White Rock #1 to 1 nautical mile offshore. Southern boundary is a latitude line of 35° 48.6' N from Salmon Cone to 1 nautical mile offshore. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

**Total Area:** 1.68 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 1.80 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No, but it does encompass part of an existing Area of Special Biological Significance, which provides water quality protection.  
**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rock reef and kelp forest, interspersed with sand bottom. Depth range 0-26 fathoms, or 0-47 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This small proposed state marine reserve overlaps with an existing Area of Special Biological Significance, and includes shallow-water reef and kelp habitat. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in this area and would enhance economically important species, including lingcod, cabezon, and rockfishes such as blue, gopher, olive, yellowtail, vermilion, copper, black, canary, brown, kelp, and China. Some baseline information on fish abundances exists from periodic Department research cruises since 1980 and from scuba surveys in 1982. The proposed site is south of a small upwelling plume at Cape San Martin, and provides an MPA in the region between the Big Creek and Piedras Blancas MPAs. The proposed reduction in area was in response to socioeconomic impact concerns, primarily from kelp harvesters and the CPFV fishery.

**17. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area

**Revised Proposed MPA: Piedras Blancas Intertidal State Marine Reserve**

**Proposed boundaries:** This proposed marine reserve is an intertidal reserve. The northwest boundary is at Point Piedras Blancas. The southeast boundary is an unnamed point (35° 39.4' N, 121° 15' W) southeast of Point Piedras Blancas. The inshore boundary is the mean high tide line.

**Total Area:** 0.20 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 2.75 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Extensive and popular intertidal zone.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

Pt. Piedras Blancas and the coast to the south include a rocky intertidal region that has been the subject of study for over 50 years by organizations which include Scripps Institute of Oceanography, UCLA, Cal State University Fullerton, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. These studies continue at present. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in the intertidal area. Elephant seals have established a new haul-out site in this area. This proposal represents a reduction in total area, but an increase in degree of protection, in response to concerns from users of potential negative socioeconomic impact.

**Deleted:**

Cambria State Marine Conservation Area

This proposed deletion is in response to concerns from users of potential negative socioeconomic impact.

**18. Marine Region: South Central**

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Cambria State Marine Reserve

**Revised Proposed MPA: Cambria State Marine Reserve**

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is latitude line 35° 32.5' N from a point on land marked by a stairway and being the northern boundary of the Kenneth S. Norris Ranch Marine Reserve, out to 3 nautical mile offshore. Southern boundary is latitude 35° 31' N from unnamed point (35° 31' N, 121° 04' W) out to 3 nautical miles. This point lines up with the Cambria Air force Base Radar Station. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

**Total Area:** 5.18 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 3.63 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rocky reef and kelp forests, with interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 0-55 fathoms, or 0-100 meters.

**Proposed regulations:**

No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in this area and would enhance economically important species, including lingcod, cabezon, and rockfishes such as blue, yellowtail, gopher, vermilion, starry, copper, olive, bocaccio, canary, kelp, black, flag, and China. The offshore habitat is primarily soft bottom, and the potential impacts on users in the offshore area would primarily be on salmon and halibut fisheries which are thought to be sustainable. While this proposal would prohibit fishing for these species out to three miles, the total impact on these fisheries from this revised proposed network is minimal, as this is only one of two proposed State Marine Reserves in the Pt. Sur to Pt. Arguello region which restricts these types of fishing in an area where they are presently allowed. This proposal address concerns from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and environmental groups that we do not have an adequate number of sites proposed as SMRs that extend out to 3 miles and thus afford complete ecosystem protection. The nearshore region between Pt. Estero and Pt. Piedras Blancas contains extensive reef and kelp habitat, and has been heavily utilized by commercial and recreational fisheries. The proposed reserve would provide an example of representative reef and mixed bottom habitat within a section of coastline more than 40 miles in length with no other subtidal MPAs. The proposed Cambria SMR is located adjacent to a University of California natural reserve, and a long-term marine monitoring site has been established here. The Department has baseline data on fish abundance in this region from periodic research cruises since 1982 and from monitoring Cen Cal spearfish meets in the 1990s.

**19. Marine Region:** South Central

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area

**Revised Proposed MPA:** Diablo Canyon State Marine Reserve

**Proposed boundaries:** 1 mile radius around the nuclear domes at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile radius from shore at the domes.

**Total Area:** 1.45 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 4.43 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Primarily hard bottom with kelp beds. Depth range 0-24 fathoms, or 0-43 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

Considerable biological and oceanographic information about the region has been gathered in this region for approximately 30 years as monitoring for the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. Early studies were published in a Department Marine Technical Report (Number 19) in 1973 by Burge and Schultze. Various contractors continue to conduct monitoring studies here. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in this area and would enhance economically important species, particular lingcod, cabezon, greenlings, and shallow water rockfishes such as blue, gopher, copper, vermilion, China, and olive. The location of the southern boundary of the proposed SMCA off Diablo Canyon was designed to take advantage of the northern monitoring sites for Diablo Canyon. This was a logical alternative to the original proposal due to the recent establishment of a restricted area within 1 mile of the nuclear reactor for national security reasons.

**Deleted:**

Purisima State Marine Conservation Area

This action is proposed due to the inclusion of similar habitat immediately to the south in the proposed Vandenberg SMR.

**20. Marine Region:** South Central/South

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Conception State Marine Park

**Revised Proposed MPA:** **Vandenberg State Marine Conservation Area.** Existing Vandenberg State Marine Reserve, military closure zone 4 adjacent to Vandenberg military base, and the northern portion of military closure zone 5.

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is at a latitude line 34° 41.7' N, at the mouth of the Santa Ynez River, delineating military zone 4 closure (southern boundary of zone 4 at a latitude line 34° 34.5' N) and proposed boundary also includes the existing Vandenberg State Marine Reserve (which is directly south of zone 4). Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles (except for the offshore boundary of the existing Vandenberg State Marine Reserve).

**Total Area:** 23.88 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 12.53 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Vandenberg State Marine Reserve)

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** Yes

**Habitats:** Rock reef, sandy bottom, and kelp beds. Cultural artifacts (shipwrecks). Depth range 0-36 fathoms, or 0-65 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon trolling outside of the boundaries of the existing Vandenberg State Marine Reserve.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new site with the inclusion of an existing site. No regulation changes are proposed for the existing site.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This proposal will create a relative large MPA without causing any additional negative socioeconomic impact on users, who are already excluded from Zone 4 and Zone 5 with few exceptions. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in this area and would enhance economically important species, particular lingcod, cabezon, greenlings, and rockfishes such as brown, gopher, yellowtail, blue, vermilion, canary, bocaccio, and copper. It will still include some representative habitat for brown rockfish, a species of concern, even though it is not the Team's preferred area (from Purisima Point to the south). Some baseline data on fish abundance in the adjacent Purisima Point area exists from a Department research cruise in 1998.

From a conversation with W. Schobel (Airspace and Offshore Management Section of Vandenberg Air Force Station), November 30, 2001:

We received clarification from Mr. Schobel regarding their regulations within Danger Zone 4 (Santa Ynez River to Pt Arguello and offshore to 3 nautical miles). Zone 4 is enforced as a no-stopping area by the Air Force. Some fishing does occur if it does not require stopping or loitering (i.e., salmon trolling through the area would be allowed). There is some diving that goes on in that zone, but this activity is by permission only and Mr. Schobel estimated that they have 1-2 dive requests per year, largely at the southern end of zone 4 near Destroyer Rock. In general, the Airforce has a good relationship with the fishing community and tries to accommodate any requests for activities within the zone if possible. Mr. Schobel supported the idea of making zone 4 area the proposed SMR (as opposed to new additional ones in the area); even though zone 4 has not been a no-fishing zone per se, the community is aware of the present regulations and would likely be more amenable to additional regulations in that same area.

**21. Marine Region:** South Central/South

**Initial Proposed MPA:** Conception State Marine Park

**Revised Proposed MPA:** **Conception State Marine Reserve.**

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is longitude line  $120^{\circ} 29.7' W$ , which is 3 miles north of Pt. Conception. Southern boundary is Government Point longitude line  $120^{\circ} 27.0' W$ , approx. 1 mile east of Point Conception. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile

**Total Area:** 4.11 square nautical miles (3.76 square nautical miles within south central)  
**Total Shoreline length:** 5.11 nautical miles (3.52 nautical miles within south central)

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No, this is a new proposed MPA.  
**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rock reef, sandy bottom, and kelp beds. Cultural artifacts (shipwrecks).  
Depth range 0-39 fathoms, or 0-71 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed MPA.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The area surrounding Point Conception is of great biological significance. It is one of the world's most striking biogeographic boundaries marking the abrupt transition from cold water species from the north (Oregonian province) to warm water species from the south (California province). The region includes a unique mix of species that is not found anywhere else along the Pacific coast. The sharp transition in species arises from the collision of ocean currents. The cold, nutrient rich waters of the southward flowing California Current collide with the warmer, nutrient poor waters of the Santa Barbara Channel in the vicinity of Point Conception. The proposed regulations would allow the natural ecological functions to occur in this area and would enhance economically important species, particular lingcod, cabezon, greenlings, and shallow water rockfishes such as. This proposal leaves open the area from Jalama Beach to the boathouse, which is the only shore-based public access area between Pt. conception and Port San Luis.

**Proposed elimination of existing MPAs**

Four existing sites are proposed for elimination within the south central region:  
Atascadero Beach State Marine Conservation Area  
Morro Beach State Marine Conservation Area  
Pismo Invertebrate State Marine Conservation Area  
Pismo-Oceano Beach State Marine Conservation Area

These four areas were originally designated primarily to protect and enhance Pismo clam populations. With the expansion of the range of sea otters, Pismo clams of a harvestable size are no longer abundant in this area of the coast, and these MPAs are not effective in meeting their original objective.

**State Water Quality Protection Areas:**

The South Central Region contains seven sites now known as "Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)". Under the new classification system of state marine

managed areas, each of these has also been classified as a State Water Quality Protection Area (SWQPA) with no change in regulations. At this time the Planning Team is recommending no change in regulations for these sites, which are as follows:

Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge and Hopkins Marine Life Refuge ASBS and SWQPA

Carmel Bay ASBS and SWQPA

Point Lobos Ecological Reserve ASBS and SWQPA

Julia Pfeiffer Burns Underwater Park ASBS and SWQPA

Ocean Area Surrounding the Mouth of Salmon Creek ASBS and SWQPA

San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz Islands ASBS and SWQPA(part of this is in South Region)

San Nicolas Island and Begg Rock ASBS and SWQPA

Note that some of these sites overlap existing or proposed marine protected areas.

**Existing estuarine marine protected areas:**

The following existing estuarine areas are within the south central region.

Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve

Morro Bay State Estuary

By definition within the new classification system, "Marine" includes estuarine areas. Morro Bay State Estuary currently has no site specific regulations for fishing which are more restrictive than the existing Fish and Game regulations. At this time the MLPA Planning Team is recommending no change in either boundaries or regulations for these sites.